Appl. No. 09/909,190 Amdt. Dated July 13, 2004 Reply to Office action of April 21, 2004 Attorney Docket No. P14654/27943-00418 EUS/J/P/04-6158

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Amendments

The Applicants have amended Claims 3, 11. 13-14, 16, 19, 22, 24, 27, 30, 32, 36, 38, and 39; Claims 1-2, 5-6, 8-10, 12. 15, 18, 21, 23, 25-26, 29, 31, 34-35, and 37 have been cancelled. Accordingly, Claims 3-4, 7, 11, 13-14, 16-17, 19-20, 22, 24, 27-28, 30, 32-33, 36, and 38-39 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Examiner Objections

The Examiner objected to Claims 3-9, 11, 13, 16-17, 19-20, 22, 24, 27-28, 30, 32-34, 36 and 38 as to being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants extremely appreciate the Examiner's statement and have accordingly rewritten those allowable claims in independent form. More specifically, Claims 3, 11, 13, 16, 19, 22, 24, 27, 30, 32, 36 and 38 have been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims.

In view of the above amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for Claims 3-4, 7, 11, 13-14, 16-17, 19-20, 22, 24, 27-28, 30, 32-33, 36, and 38-39

<u>The Applicants request a telephonic interview</u> if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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